

THE KINGS
MAIESTIES
DECLARATION TO
His Subiects,
CONCERNING
lawfull SPORTS to
bee vsed.



Imprinted at L O N D O N by
Robert Barker, Printer to the Kings
most Excellent Maiestie: And by
the Assignes of *Iohn Bill*.

M.DC.XXXIII.

THE KING'S
MAJESTIES
DECLARATION
His Subjects

CONCERNING



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73-707





By the King.



Ur Deare Father
of blessed memorie,
in his returne from
Scotland, comming
through Lancashire, found that his
Subiects were debarred from lawfull
Recreations vpon Sundayes after
Euening. Prayers ended, and vpon
Holy dayes: And He prudently con-
sidered, that if these times were taken

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from

from them, the meaner sort who labour hard all the weeke, should haue no Recreations at all to refresh their spirits. And after His returne, Hee farther saw that His loyall Subiects in all other parts of His Kingdome did suffer in the same kinde, though perhaps not in the same degree: And did therefore in His Princely wisdom, publish a Declaration to all his louing Subiects concerning lawfull Sports to be vsed at such times, which was printed and published by His royall Commandement in the yeere 1618. In the Tenor which hereafter followeth.

¶ By



¶ By the King.

WHereas vpon Our
 retorne the last yere
 out of Scotland,
 We did publish Our
 Pleasure touching the recreations of
 Our people in those parts vnder Our
 hand: For some causes Vs thereunto
 moouing, Wee haue thought good to
 command these Our Directions then
 giuen in Lancashire with a few
 words thereunto added, and most ap-
 pliable

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pliable to these parts of Our Realmes,
to be published to all Our Subjects.

Whereas Wee did hastily in
Our Progresse through Lancashire,
rebuke some Puritanes and precise
people, and tooke order that the like
unlawfull carriage should not bee u-
sed by any of them hereafter, in the
prohibiting and unlawfull punishing
of Our good people for vsing their
lawfull Recreations, and honest ex-
ercises upon Sundayer and other Ho-
ly dayes, after the afternoone Sermon
or Service: Wee now finde that two
sorts of people wherewith that Coun-
try is much infected, (Wee meane
Papists

Papists and Puritanes) haue maliciously traduced and calumniated those Our iust and honourable proceedings. And therefore lest Our reputation might upon the one side (though innocently) haue some aspersian laid vpon it, and that vpon the other part Our good people in that Countrey be misled by the mistaking and misinterpretation of Our meaning: We haue therefore thought good hereby to cleare and make Our pleasure to bee manifested to all Our good People in those parts.

It is true that at Our first entry to this Crowne and Kingdome,

B

Wee

Wee were informed, and that too
truly, that Our County of Lan-
cashire abounded more in Popish
Recusants then any County of Eng-
land, and thus hath still continued
since to Our great regret, with little
amendment, save that now of late, in
Our last riding through Our said
County, Wee find both by the report of
the Judges, and of the Bishop of that
Diocesse, that there is some amend-
ment now daily beginning, which is no
small contentment to Vs.

The report of this growing amend-
ment amongst them, made Vs the more
sorry, when with Our owne Eares We
heard

heard the generall complaint of our
 people, that they were barred from all
 lawfull Recreation, & exercise vpon
 the Sundayes after-noon, after the
 ending of all Diuine Service, which
 cannot but produce two evils: The
 one, the hindering of the conuersion of
 many, whom their Priests will take
 occasion hereby to rexe, perswading
 them that no honest mirth or recreati-
 on is lawfull or tolerable in our Re-
 ligion, which cannot but breed a great
 discontentment in Our peoples hearts,
 especially of such as are peradventure
 vpon the point of turning; The other
 inconuenience is, that this prohibition

barreth the common and meaner sort
 of people from vsing such exercises as
 may make their bodies more able for
 Warre, when Wee or Our Successours
 shall haue occasion to vse them. And
 in place thereof sets up filthy tiplings
 and drunkennes, and breeds a number
 of idle and discontented speeches in
 their Alehouses. For when shall the
 common people haue leaue to exercise,
 if not vpo the Sundayes & holy daies,
 seeing they must apply their labour, &
 win their living in all working dayes?
 Our expresse pleasure therefore is,
 that the Lawes of Our Kingdom, &
 Canons of Our Church be aswell ob-

served in that Countie, as in all other
 places of this Our Kingdome. And
 on the other part, that no lawfull Re-
 creation shall be barred to Our good
 People, which shall not tend to the
 breach of Our aforesaid Lawes, and
 Canons of Our Church: which to ex-
 presse more particularly, Our pleasure
 is, That the Bishop, and all other in-
 feriour Churchmen, and Churchwar-
 dens, shall for their parts be carefull
 and diligent, both to instruct the Igno-
 rant, and conuince and reforme them
 that are miss-led in Religion, presen-
 ting them that wil not conform them-
 selves, but obstinately stand out to

Our iudges and Iustices: Whom We
likewise command to put the Law in
due execution against them.

Our pleasure likewise is, That the
Bishop of that Diocese take the like
straight order with all the Puritans
and Precisians within the same, either
constraining them to conformance them-
selues, or to leaue the County accor-
ding to the Lawes of Our Kingdome,
and Canons of Our Church, and so to
strike equally on both hands, against
the contemners of Our Authority, and
aduersaries of Our Church And as for
Our good peoples lawfull Recreation,
Our pleasure likewise is, That after

the

the end of Diuine Service, Our good people be not disturbed, letted, or discouraged from any lawfull recreation, Such as dancing, either men or women, Archery for men, leaping, vaulting, or any other such harmelesse recreation, nor from haunting of May-Games, Whiscon Ales, and Morris-dances, and the setting vp of May-poles & other sports therewith used, so as the same be had in due & convenient time, without impediment or neglect of Diuine Service. And that women shall haue leaue to carry rushes to the Church for the decoring of it, according to their old custome. But with-

all We doe here account still as prohibited all vnlawfull games to be used upon Sundayes onely, as Beare and Bullbaitings, Interludes, and at all times in the meaner sort of people by Law prohibited, Bowling.

And likewise We barre from this benefite and liberty, all such known recusants, either men or women, as will abstaine from coming to Church or diuine Seruice being therfore vnmortified, if any lawfull recreation after the said Seruice, that will not first come to the Church, and serue God: Prohibiting in like sort the said recreations to any that, though conforme in religion,

ligious, are not present in the Church
 at the Service of God, before their
 going to the said Recreations. Our
 pleasure likewise is, That they to
 whom it belongeth in Office, shall pre-
 sent and sharply punish all such as in
 abuse of this Our liberty, will use
 these exercises before the ends of all
 Diuine Seruices for that day. And
 Wee likewise straightly command,
 That euery person shall resort to his
 owne Parish Church to heare Diuine
 Seruice, and each Parish by it selfe to
 vse the said recreation after Diuine
 Seruice. Prohibiting likewise any
 Offensue weapons to bee carried or
 C used

used in the said times of recreations.
 And Our pleasure is, That this Our
 Declaration shall be published by or-
 der from the Bishop of the Diocese,
 through all the Parish Churches, and
 that both Our Judges of Our Circuit,
 and Our Iustices of Our Peace be in-
 formed thereof.

Given at Our Mannour of Greenwich
 the foure and twentieth day of
 May, in the sixteenth yeere of Our
 Reigne of England, France and
 Ireland, and of Scotland the one
 and fiftieth.

Now

NOm out of a like Pious
 Care for the Service of
 God, and for suppressing
 of any humors that oppose trueth, and
 for the Ease, Comfort, & Recreation
 of Our well deserving People, Wee
 doe ratifie and publish this Our bles-
 sed Fathers Declaration: The ra-
 ther because of late in some Counties
 of Our Kingdome, Wee finde that
 vnder pretence of taking away abu-
 ses, there hath beene a generall for-
 bidding, not onely of ordinary mee-
 tings, but of the Feasts of the De-
 dication of the Churches, commonly

called Wakes. Now Our expresse
will and pleasure is, that these Feasts
with others shall bee observed, and
that Our Iustices of the Peace in
their severall Divisions shall looke to
it, both that all disorders there, may be
prevented or punished, and that all
neighbourhood and freedome, with
manlike and lawfull Exercises bee
used. And Wee further Command
Our Iustices of Assize in their seve-
rall Circuits, to see that no man doe
trouble or molest any of Our loyall
and dutifull people, in or for their
lawfull recreations, having first done
their dutie to God, and continuing in
obedience

obedience to Vs and Our Lawes. And of this Wee command all Our Iudges, Iustices of the Peace, as well within Liberties as without, Maiors, Bayliffes, Constables, and other Officers, to take notice of, and to see obserued, as they tender Our displeasure. And Wee farther will, that publication of this Our Command bee made by order from the Bishops througħ all the Parrish Churches of their seuerall Diocesse respectiuelly.

Giuen at Our Palace of Westminster the eighteenth day of October, in the ninth yeere of Our Reigne.

God saue the King.